

***Serve God Freely  
and Generously***

**Matthew 19:27-20:16**



the  
**Gospel**  
according to  
**Matthew**



# **The Call to Serve**

*How is Your Serve?*

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**Unwilling, Reluctant?**

*Feels inadequate?*

**Willing, but Rewards?**

*What's in it for me?*





# **Peter in Matthew 19:27**

*We have left everything  
to follow you!*

*What then will  
there be for us?*



## **Peter's question was answered**

***<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you... you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.***

**Your rewards will be great!  
More than you can imagine!**





**Problem is rewards are not  
sufficient for us to serve him**

**Why?**

*Reward does not build faith.*

**Danger! Poisonous Attitude**

*We can become calculative,  
competitive, and proud*

**It spoils our relationships  
with one another!**

*Detrimental to our health*



# **HOW?**

*Something deeper  
must hold us*

## **The Heart of Service**

*But many who are first will be last,  
and many who are last will be first.*

### ***A Heart Free to Serve***

*Serve GOD Freely, Joyfully,  
Generously with Love and Unity*







# **Parable of the vineyard workers**

## **A Shocking Story! *It's NOT fair!***

**It's the season of the grapes harvest**

*For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.<sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.*

**The landowner hired workers at 6am**



**More Workers recruited  
at 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm**

*About nine in the morning he went out...  
He told them, "You also go and work in my  
vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is  
right."... 'He went out again about noon and  
about three...About five in the afternoon...*

**He was a kind man!**

*He asked them, "Why have you been  
standing here all day long doing nothing?"  
"Because no one has hired us,"  
they answered. 'He said to them,  
"You also go and work in my vineyard."*





# Paying time

*‘When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired...each received a denarius.”’*

## **What a Generous Boss!**

*The workers who were hired last at 5pm were paid first and each received a denarius!*

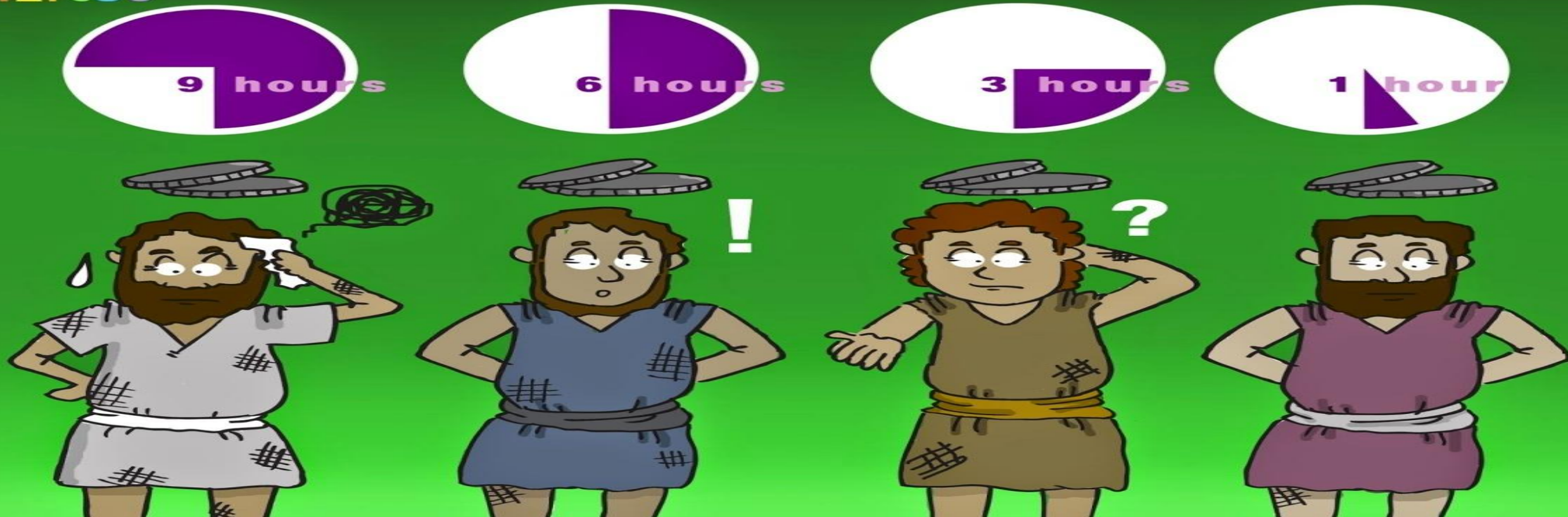


# The Greatest Surprise

<sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

**All were pay equally! One Denarius**

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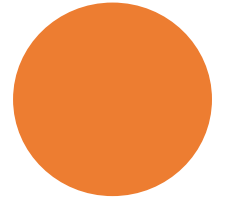




## The 'unequal pay' Gross Injustice

*When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.<sup>12</sup> "These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day."*

***From 'Kind & Generous Boss'  
to 'It's NOT Fair!'***



**I'm More Than Fair! You are paid  
what you have agreed & expected**

***"I am not being unfair to you, friend.  
Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?  
I want to give the one who was hired last the  
same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right...?"***

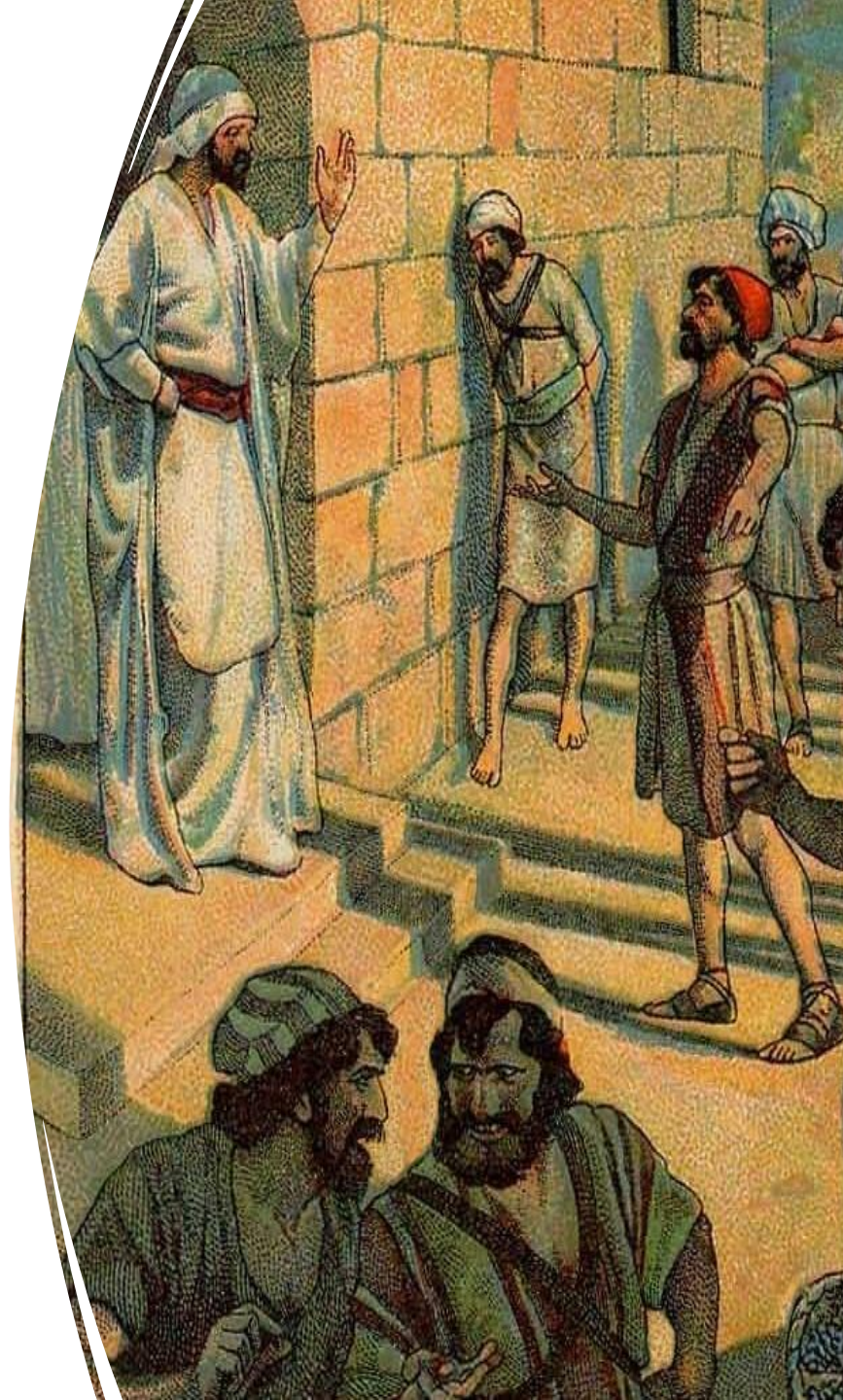
**What it revealed in them:**

***"Or are you envious because I am generous?"***

***Competitive vs. Compassionate spirit***

***Complaining vs. Contented spirit***

***Conceited vs. Humble spirit***





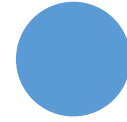
# **Kingdom Economic - Divinomic**

*'So the last will be first,  
and the first will be last.'*

**Grace Amazing Grace  
is the burden of the story**

**He is a Compassionate,  
Gracious, Generous God!**

*God operates not on what  
a man deserves to get but  
on what He delights to give!*



# **Mercy Not Merit!**

**A story of mercy  
and compassion**

*All are on the same  
page. No ranking*

**Be Overwhelmed by  
His Amazing Grace  
and Generosity!**





# **Be the Grace Workers**

*"I will pay you whatever is right."*

**Work trusting Him as the  
Good and Generous Master**

**Become Contented**

*Generous Big-hearted*

*Compassionate*

*Humble and Gentle Workers*



# **NOT Kill-Joy Contract Workers Compare and Complain**

- *Calculative*
- *Competitive*
- *Conceited*





The background is a painting of a battlefield at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and red, with a large, bright sun or moon in the upper right. The ground is dark and muddy, with several soldiers in dark uniforms scattered across it. Some soldiers are standing, while others are lying down. In the center, there is a large, dark, cylindrical object that looks like a tank or a large barrel. The overall mood is somber and urgent.

**The time to serve is NOW  
Never too late!**

**6 AM**

**9AM**

**12 NOON**

**3PM**

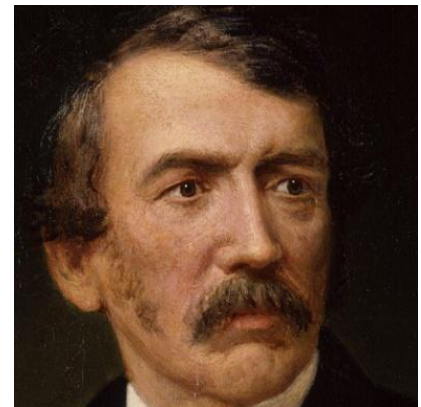
**5PM**

## **It's a great privilege to serve Him!**

*"I personally have never ceased to rejoice that God has entrusted me with His service. People talk a lot about the sacrifice involved in devoting my life to Africa. But can this be called a sacrifice at all if we give back to God a "little of what we owe Him?"...Can that be called sacrifice which gives us the deepest satisfaction, which develops our best powers and gives us the greatest hopes and expectations?*

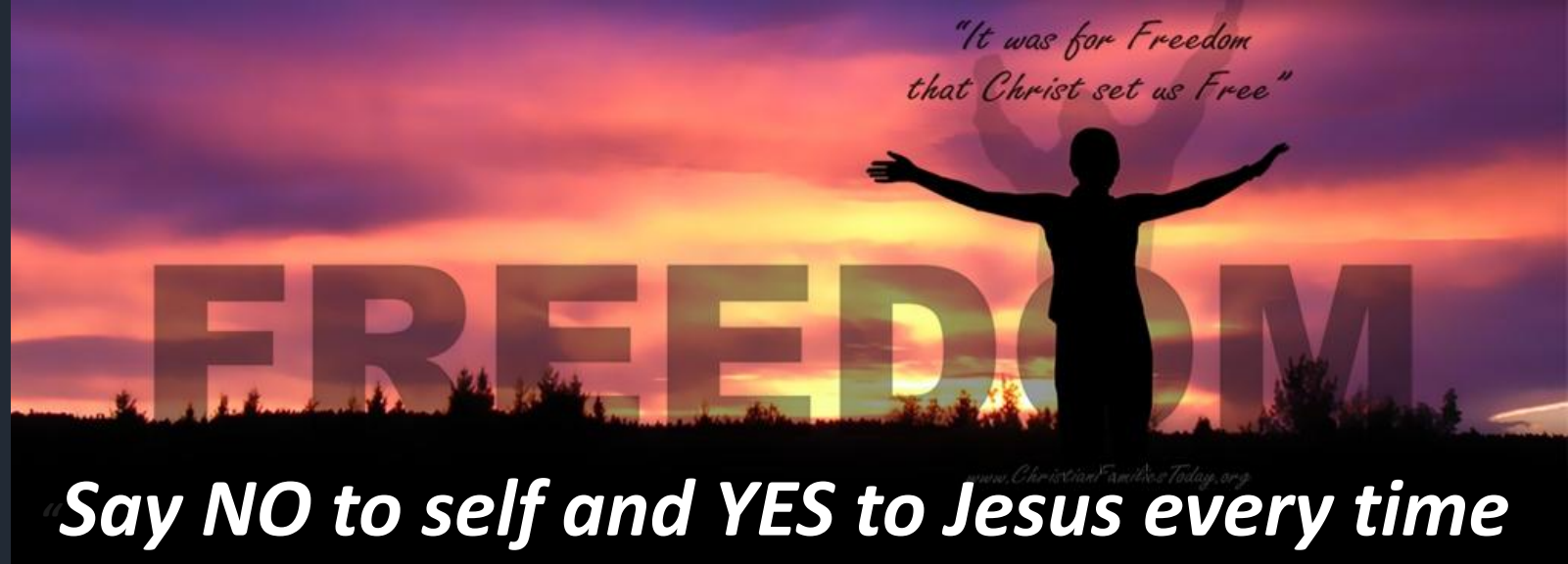
*Away with this word. It is anything but a sacrifice. Rather, call it a "privilege!"*

**David Livingstone**





**William  
Borden  
(1887-1913)**



**Free To Serve**

***"No Reserves"***

***"No Retreats"***

***"No Regrets"***



**HLCE Serve Together!**

**Light bulbs all nights  
vs. Chandelier**

***Not all are VISIBLE  
but ALL are VALUABLE***



***Come Follow Jesus  
Love and Serve Him Together  
Freely and Generously***



**Build His Kingdom Here!**